



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

K. Gail Russell, Secretary

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PPC Announces Leadership Changes at ABC

Martin, Sellers assume roles as acting commissioner, deputy commissioner

Frankfort, Ky. (March 12, 2019) – Public Protection Cabinet Secretary K. Gail Russell today announced leadership changes at the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the agency responsible for regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages in Kentucky.

Carol Beth Martin, who has served as malt beverage administrator since February 2016, has been appointed acting commissioner. She replaces Christy Trout-Van Tatenhove, who served as ABC commissioner since October 2016.

“Carol Beth’s experience in administration and operational functions will serve the department well,” said Secretary Russell. “I know Carol Beth will continue the great work begun by Commissioner Trout.”

“I thank Secretary Russell for the opportunity to continue to serve in this increasingly important role in Governor Bevin’s administration,” said Martin. “In addition to ensuring state law is followed, I will continue working with the alcoholic beverage industry encouraging its economic development.”

Originally from Campbell County, Martin holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Kentucky and a master’s in public administration from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. She and her husband Scott live in Louisville with their two daughters.

Karen Sellers has been appointed deputy commissioner. Following years as an executive in the healthcare industry, Sellers will aid in the administration of the department, including managing staff, overseeing licensing, and interacting with the public.

“I am honored to be a part of the impressive team at ABC,” said Karen Sellers. “I look forward to working closely with a dedicated team of professionals as we strive to ensure our communities in the Commonwealth are safe and responsible.”

“Karen Sellers’ experience in corporate healthcare administration is extensive,” said Secretary Russell. “I am very appreciative for her willingness to step away from her career to lend her abundant talent in service to the Commonwealth and its citizens.”

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The mission of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is to protect the public welfare and interest by regulating the alcoholic beverage industry through licensing, education and the enforcement of alcohol laws and regulations, as well as combating youth access to alcoholic beverages and tobacco products in the Commonwealth. For additional information about ABC, visit their web site at <https://abc.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>.